

**N.1: Trade Apprenticeship Scheme at RRCAT**

RRCAT has taken a proactive role to contribute in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, under the “Skill India Campaign” of Government of India, by initiating a new scheme named “Trade Apprenticeship Scheme at RRCAT” (TASAR). This scheme is meant to educate and train young ITI trained persons by providing them access to our modern engineering infrastructure, under the guidance of experienced and knowledgeable engineers and technicians. The first TASAR batch of 35 apprentices from 12 designated trades was inducted on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

TASAR is providing numerous opportunities to the apprentices to get practical work experience by participating in ongoing activities of the Centre. The training imparted here has three major distinctions: i) a formal training to impart the skills, ii) providing opportunities to execute what has been learnt, and iii) an academic and professional guidance mechanism through a team of carefully chosen faculty members. The faculty would also mentor the apprentices in preparing for the All India Trade Test (AITT) at the end of the session.

Some of the apprentices belonging to trades like fitting and drafting, where a variety of work exposure is important, have been kept in a common pool. They are sent to different Divisions to expose them to different types of challenges, to enhance their learning. For other apprentices also, the learning opportunities are rotated with time to increase the panorama of exposure.

Many facilities are being provided to the apprentices. RRCAT has procured all the relevant books in Hindi and English languages to encourage self-learning and to improve the

knowledge. Stipend of ₹ 7200 per month through online bank transfer is being provided to every apprentice, so that they can meet their daily needs during the learning period. Female apprentices have been provided shared hostel accommodation in the RRCAT Guest House and Hostels Complex, to encourage their participation in the program.

TASAR has started to show positive outcomes. In three months of its inception, there has been so much improvement in the skill and knowledge levels of the apprentices that some of the Divisions and Independent Sections of RRCAT have opted for their engagement in their important time bound projects. Apprentices from common pool are serving at these places and multiplying their skills through execution of new challenges.

The apprentices have been given specially designed T-shirts, winter jackets, and back-packs with RRCAT and NAPS logos and TASAR imprinted on them to impart the sense of pride, identity and belonging. This also helps in their easier identification in the campus.

The scheme has created a win-win situation for both the stake holders – RRCAT and the apprentices, apart from meeting the objectives of the national scheme. Most of the apprentices have come from rural, suburban and semi-urban backgrounds. Their learning and skill development at RRCAT will also increase the reach of RRCAT and DAE into these regions of the country.

Based on experience gained during the conduction of this program, RRCAT is going to start another batch from 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The arrangements for the same are in progress.

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TASAR-2018 batch.